

REMARKS

The final Office Action of March 16, 2007 has been received and reviewed.

Claims 1-16 and 18-25 are currently pending and under consideration in the above-referenced application. Of these, claims 1-16 and 18-23 stand rejected, while the Office has objected to claims 24 and 25 for depending from rejected base claims.

Reconsideration of the above-referenced application is respectfully requested.

Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement

Please note that a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement was filed in the above-referenced application on March 14, 2002, but that the undersigned attorney has not yet received any indication that the references cited in the Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement have been considered in the above-referenced application. It is respectfully requested that the references cited in the Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement of March 14, 2002,, be considered and made of record in the above-referenced application and that an initialed copy of the Form PTO/SB/08A that accompanied that Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement be returned to the undersigned attorney as evidence of such consideration.

If any of the documents or any portion thereof is not available to the Office, the undersigned attorney would be happy to supply a copy thereof to the Office.

Allowable Subject Matter

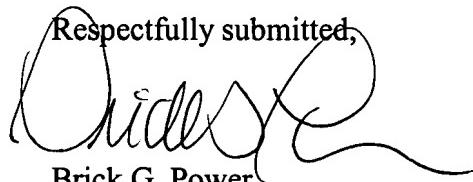
The indication that claims 24 and 25 are drawn to subject matter that is “free of the prior art of record” is gratefully acknowledged.

It is proposed that the limitations of claim 24 be incorporated into independent claim 1 and that the limitations of claim 25 be incorporated into independent claim 20, which would place both independent claim 1 and independent claim 20, as well as the claims that depend from each of these claims, in condition for allowance.

Entry of the proposed amendments to independent claims 1 and 20 would also address all of the grounds of rejection that remain in the above-referenced application, without introducing new matter into the above-referenced application or necessitating an additional search.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that each of claims 1-16 and 18-23 is allowable. An early notice of the allowability of each of these claims is respectfully solicited, as is an indication that the above-referenced application has been passed for issuance. If any issues preventing allowance of the above-referenced application remain which might be resolved by way of a telephone conference, the Office is kindly invited to contact the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,


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